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Message Text

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43
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 PM-07 EB-11 MC-02 OMB-01 DRC-01

IGA-02 COME-00 TRSE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 /106 W
---------- 062842
R 251209Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2728
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON
SUBJ: RTG REQUEST FOR EXPANDED LIST OF ITEMS FOR SALE TO VIETNAM UNDER PD 31

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS SENT EMBASSY A NOTE REQUESTING USG EXPANSION OF THE LIST OF COMMODITIES BEING PROCURED UNDER AID POLICY DETERMINATION 31 (PD 31) IN VIETNAM. APPRECIATION IS EXPRESSED FOR PAST USG ACTION MAKING THAILAND AN ELIGIBLE PD 31 SOURCE COUNTRY BUT COMMENT IS ADDED THAT MANY COMMODITIES THAILAND HAS AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT ARE NOT ON THE ELIGIBLE LIST AND THAT THAILAND PRODUCES FEW OF THOSE THAT ARE. COPY OF THE RTG NOTE IS BEING AIR POUCHED.

2. I STRONGLY URGE THAT EVERY CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO RESPONDING QUICKLY AND FAVORABLY TO THIS REQUEST. WILL APPRECIATE ANY ADVANCE PREPARATION THAT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IN DEPARTMENT TO EXPEDITE DISCUSSION DURING MY FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON, D.C. OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS USG MIGHT TAKE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THAI REQUEST.

3. EXPORT DEVELOPMENT IS A PRIORITY RTG OBJECTIVE WHICH IS RECEIVING INCREASING ATTENTION DUE TO THE OIL CRISIS
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AND DOMESTIC INFLATION. DEFICIT IN THAILAND'S BALANCE OF

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TRADE WITH THE USA HAS PROGRESSIVELY WIDENED IN RECENT
YEARS, REACHING 122 MILLION DOLLARS IN 1973. THIS FIGURE
HAS THE POTENTIAL OF BEING JUXTAPOSED TO OUR DISADVANTAGE
WITH A PROJECTED 1974 THAI OVERALL BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
DEFICIT OF APPROXIMATELY 100 MILLION DOLLARS. ALTHOUGH
JAPANESE HAVE BEEN CRITICIZED FOR THE IMBALANCE IN THEIR
TRADE WITH THAILAND, U.S. HAS SO FAR LARGELY ESCAPED
ALTHOUGH VULNERABLE.

4. AT A TIME OF INCREASED RTG CONCERN OVER DOWNWARD TREND
OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND AT SAME
TIME THAT WE CONTINUE TO NEED RTG COOPERATION, BELIEVE IT
HIGHLY IMPORTANT THAT WE TANGIBLY DEMONSTRATE OUR CONCERN FOR
PROGRESS OF THAI ECONOMY. HAPPILY, IN THIS INSTANCE THE MENAS
ARE AVAILABLE AT NO GREAT COST TO U.S.

5. REQUESTED LIST OF ADDITIONAL PD 31 COMMODITIES WHICH
FOLLOWS ARE APPARENTLY MADE UP BY RTG WITHOUT BENEFIT OF
1974 VIETNAM POSITIVE LIST AS IT INCLUDES SOME ITEMS IN
GROUP B BELOW NOT ON THE POSTIVE LIST, AND SOME ITEMS
IN GROUP C NOW UNDER CODE 941 PROCUREMENT.

A. ITEMS NOW CODE 000-USA SOURCE ONLY:
PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS CORRUGATED IRON SHEET
POPLIN STEEL PIPE
COTTON SILK THREAT HOES
POLYESTER COTTON

B. ITEMS NOT FOND ON POSITIVE LIST:
CONDENSED MILK ASBESTOS CEMENT TILES
EVAPORATED MILK ASBESTOS CEMENT PRESSURE PIPE
CANNED FISH AND FRUIT COTTON CLOTH
CEMENT ELASTIC BRAID/WEBBING
SHEET GLASS GARMENTS
HARD BOARD GUNNY BAGS
ACOUSTIC BOARD RUBBERIZED COCONUT FIBER
PARTICLE BOARD BUTTONS
CELLOCRETE (WOOD WOOL CEMENT BOARD)

C. ITEMS NOW UNDER CODE 941 (THAILAND ELIGIBLE SOURCE):
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TIRES AND TUBES

6. SINCE DECISION AS TO WHICH OF THOSE COMMODITIES
BEING PROCURED WITH AID FINANCING ARE ELIGIBLE FOR SUPPLY
BY PD 31 COUNTRIES IS AN AID ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY,
A QUICK REPLY TO RTG REQUEST WOULD APPEAR POSSIBLE. I
SUGGEST THIS BE DONE IN A TWO STEP PROCESS. FIRST
WOULD BE ACTION ON GROUP A AND SECOND CONSIDERATION OF

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EXPANSION OF AID FINANCED PROCUREMENT OF TIMES IN GROUP B.

7. WHILE THE RTG INCLUDED CEMENT IN ITS REQUEST, THAI CEMENT COMPANIES ARE PRESENTLY EXPORTING CEMENT TO VIETNAM. SIAM CEMENT, THE LEADING PRODUCER, SEES NO ADVANTAGE TO INCLUSION OF THEIR COMMODITY ON THE PD 31 LIST AT THIS TIME. IN VIEW OF THIS, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT CEMENT BE EXCLUDED FROM PD 31 LIST. HOWEVER, FOOD AND ALSO CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS IN GROUP B APPEAR TO REPRESENT COMMODITIES WHICH ARE NECESSARY TO REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION IN VIETNAM, AND FOR WHICH THAILAND MIGHT BE A LOGICAL SOURCE OF SUPPLY ON A COMPETITIVE BASIS. EMBASSY SUGGESTS CONSIDERATION ALSO BE GIVEN TO ADDITION OF LARGE DIAMETER PRE-STRESSED CONCRETE PIPE FOR WATER DISTRIBUTION, REFRACTORY BRICK, AND WHEELED TRACTORS (CODE 000).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMODITY ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO06766
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740098-0270
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740416/aaaaankm.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Aug-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RTG REQUEST FOR EXPANDED LIST OF ITEMS FOR SALE TO VIETNAM UNDER PD 31
TAGS: ECON, VS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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